WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Public sector investments in NER

2213. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) the estimate of public sector investments in the North-Eastern Region from 1995-96 to 2000-2001, State-wise;

(b) the details of these investments, sector-wise;

(c) the share of public sector investments in the North-Eastern Region in total estimated public sector investments in the country as a whole; and

(d) the measures adopted by Government to accelerate the tempo of public sector investments in the North-Eastern Region?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (d) Material is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Involvement of North-Eastern Region with the national mainstream

2214. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that despite years of developmental largesse from Government aiming at mainstreaming the North-East, feeling of oneness with the rest of country has not significantly emerged amongst local people of these areas; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to further involve them so that impediments to lasting peace in the North-East are avoided especially in view of the belligerent neighbouring countries around the North-East?

THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) Most of the North Eastern States joined the planned development process later than many other States. The trauma of partition, political evolution,

geographical isolation, transport bottlenecks, natural calamities etc. have hindered the progress of the region. Though there had been a feeling of resentment over the slow pace of development in the region in the earlier phase, the people of North-East are now equal partners in the new developmental initiatives taken by the Government by way of removal of infrastructure bottlenecks, provisioning of basic minimum services, creating an environment for private and foreign investment and thereby break the vicious circle of economic stagnation of the region. The continuous efforts of the Government for softening of geo-political rigidities, institutional mechanisms for regular dialogue on security related matters of mutual concern with the neighbouring countries will help North-East to play its dynamic role for economic development in the region. The commitment of the Bangladesh and Myanmar Governments for not permitting and activity inimical to India's interest in their countries will also help in removing the impediments to lasting peace in the North-East.

Preclusion of IOC from bidding in oil PSUs

2215. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether post-IBP acquisition, Indian Oil Corporation has been precluded from bidding for stakes in other oil PSUs like HPCL and BPCL;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether this decision by Government is based on the policy that the sale of one PSU to another would not amount to privatisation;

(d) the reasons for choosing IOC to bid for IBP; and

(e) whether preclusion of IOC from bidding for BPCL/HPCL stakes will lead to cartelisation and manipulation of valuation by other two bidders?